

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee
Monday May 8th. 2017

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reed, Helen Elias, Helen Spence, Anthony Godber, Jane Donovan, Liz Bayton (committee members), John Plunkett (Bowling group)

1. **Apologies:** Carol Bayliss, Carol Alcock, Trevor Robinson (ranger) Ken Taylor, Fiona Jay (police)
2. **Minutes** of the meeting held on April 3rd accepted as a true record.
3. **Matters arising:** there has been no charge for the **leaflets** printed by Kevin at Rennison's. The committee thought it would be good to credit him on the leaflets. Paul has a quote for £890 for a **fence** round the flat green – a wood and wire fence the same as the crown green. The committee will discuss whether we want the fence at the next meeting. **Pavilion** plans – Paul met briefly with Richard. We will look at the options at the next meeting. Anthony will get a pole to make getting the shutters down safer.
4. **Old tennis court plans:** Helen reported that more consultation had taken place at the Earlsdon Festival focusing on whether there were objections to the playground markings plan. There were none. Everyone was very positive. There have been no further suggestions although the area can still be used for other events such as table top sales or a pet show. It has been decided to go ahead with the playground markings plan. Children were questioned about a range of markings. Top of the 130 responses was a mini road, followed by a long jump, hopscotch and a maze. Karen and Helen met with a rep from Fun and Active Sports and proposed a winding roadway around the area with features such as zebra crossings, traffic lights etc. The centre piece would be our logo placed in the centre of a maze. A fitness trail including hop scotch could go around the maze. There could also be a number or letter snake or snail. We asked them to come up with some alternatives. We have almost £2000 from the Co-op and even if we only come in third in the Tesco bags voting we would get £1000. There are also the proceeds of the Worldsong concert and other contributions. We need between £4000 and £5000 as we have to pay VAT. The committee discussed ways of raising funds – perhaps an appeal on Facebook, a dog show or pet show or a table sale on the tarmac area. The NENA street sale is on June 11th or it could be at the Open Gardens Day or at the Big Lunch on June 18th. Jane will plan a sale. Helen was given the go-ahead to contact other firms to get quotes for the playground markings. People were urged to get the blue tokens when they buy anything from Tesco's to vote for the play markings. Votes cannot be cast at the Cannon Park Tesco but at others including the Tesco Xpress in town and the Holyhead road, the Walsgrave and Ricoh Tesco. The committee is concerned about how the old tennis court site will be completed as the white edging does not appear to go all the way round and it currently looks a mess. Helen had sent a photo to Dave Lewis asking for clarification and his reply was circulated. He felt that the work would be completed adequately. Helen was asked to contact him further, stressing that we felt the white edging should go all round the area.
5. **Tennis:** There are now 36 members of whom 14 are new. The courts have been swept. It was decided to continue to limit play to one hour, but people

could carry on if no one else had booked the court. The tennis balance is now £825 so far less £1 per member processing fee. We have paid £220 to renew the web site. The courts have not been pressure cleaned yet but will probably be done when the War Memorial Park courts are done. It does not appear that Henry's are using the courts. Last Saturday's free tennis and tennis courts went well although the cold weather may have deterred some people. Next Saturday May 13th is the LTA Big Tennis Event. The courts will be open at no charge from 10am till 5pm and there will be coaching in the afternoon. Helen Spence, Pat and Liz will organize the refreshments and Carol Bayliss will probably be there.

6. **Plan for the AGM:** John will find out if the Albany back room will be available on Monday June 19th at 7.30pm as Karen felt it would be closed due to refurbishment. The Royal Oak want £100.
7. **Events for 2017: Teddy Bears' picnic** June 22nd 3-5pm Liz, Tim, Helen Spence, Karen and possibly Jane will be there. Rotary are organizing face painting, colouring for a collage in Holy Trinity and a bear hunt. The theme is adopt a polar bear. We will be selling ice creams and children's drinks.
Bands in the Park – July 23rd 1-4pm. Anthony, Jane, Helen Spence and Zilpha will organize the refreshments and sell books.
8. **Pavilion:** Sales items include crisps, drinks and ice-cream. We should recycle cartons.
9. **History leaflet:** Helen Spence circulated the almost finished booklet. She needed the history of this group and was told that Friends emerged from NENA when the plans for the children's playground needed to show demand from more than just the NENA area and we needed a separate bank account and constitution. She will talk further to Esther Higden. The leaflet could be sold for £3 or £4 pounds. There was a discussion about the photo quality. Helen will bring the leaflet to the next meeting for approval.
10. **Gardening:** next session Thursday evening May 11th 6.30 to 8pm. The sale of plants to sell was discussed.
11. **Earlsdon library Friends:** Tim advised that we need to watch developments as they will have implications for the pavilion. From September volunteers supervised by a professional librarian will run the library, but in the long term, the plans seem to be that the group will take over responsibility for the library including maintenance. We need to start on a business plan for taking on the pavilion at a "pepper corn rent" and set up a sub committee looking at funding opportunities. Helen Spence attends the library meetings and will keep us informed.
12. **AOB:** The Coventry male voice choir will have a concert on March 24th 2018 to raise money for us. The YMCA is selling off games equipment which might be useful for us e.g. hook a duck and skittles on May 25th at the Sandy Lane workshops from 11 am till 7pm. If we want more information Paul Claridge can be contacted on 02476 995204 or paul.claridge@ymca-cw.org.uk The Parkinson's group will be playing bowls on the flat green on Wednesday May 10th. Paul has not had interest from other groups. Perhaps we could have bowling at the Big Lunch. Pat has spoken on Coventry and Warwickshire Radio about the War Memorial Park. They want more speakers to do fifteen minute slots so she felt we could speak about our activities.
13. **Next meetings:** Monday June 5th and July 3rd.

Helen Elias 10.5.17